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postor. However, such money cannot be very usefully applied in this way.

We have been solicited on behalf of the Jews, and of the people of Canada. I am afraid there is a good deal of *jobbing* in these matters. At any rate, they are badly conducted. You want to convert the Jews to Christianity, and to deliver them from their ancient delusions. Put them first on a level with yourselves in all civil privileges; deliver them from the bondage of civil oppression; redeem them from their degraded state, as members of civil society, and then you may, with a good grace, offer them the hand of Christian fellowship. Make the Jews a respectable body, in regard of citizenship, learning, and morals, and then attempt their conversion, but not until then.

Translating the Scriptures into the several languages is an useful task; but it is evident, that a people must have made some progress in letters and civilization, before they can make a proper use of the sacred books.

A.Z.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ACCOUNT OF THE BRITISH SYSTEM OF EDUCATION FOR THE LEAST OPULENT, LEAST INSTRUCTED, AND MOST NUMEROUS CLASS, FROM THE COMMENCEMENT.

(*From the Philanthropist, Jan. 1814.*)

OUR object at present is chiefly confined to the duty of rendering to the public an account of the facts by which the state of this important concern has undergone alteration since the last statement which we were called upon to present. The facts, however, to which we more particularly allude, are

those which regard the system of management; the plan devised for conducting the business, for relieving it from those accidents to which it has hitherto stood exposed, for placing it on a distinct and public basis, and giving to it that sort of security which the steadiness of public management, as much as possible exempt from the untoward accidents of individual behaviour, can alone bestow. The multiplication of schools, the progress of the public mind, the state of the funds, and other matters, shall be reserved until the publication of the Annual Report.

It is known already to our readers, that a plan adapted to the accomplishment of the above-mentioned purposes, has been for some time in agitation. It was distinctly felt, independently of the circumstances what accidentally created the chief difficulties under which the Institution laboured, that such an alteration was highly necessary; and that which was maintained by the money of the public, should clearly stand upon a public foundation, and as clearly remain under public inspection and controul.

Not only the narrow supplies of the Institution, and the magnitude of the work to be performed, rendered the most frugal application of every farthing of the money an imperious and indispensable duty, but it was fully perceived and understood, that one expedient, and one only, was of a nature to accomplish the purpose. Complication; obscurity; the want of a due separation of what ought to be separated; the mixing together of different funds destined to different services, so that the connexion between the supplies provided and services performed, cannot be easily and immediately traced, nor a judgment formed, whether the work accomplished is

all that with the means provided it is possible to accomplish; form one of the general causes of the misapplication of public funds, of the mismanagement of public business, and of the prevention of innumerable advantages which might be conferred upon society.

These reasonings could not fail to lead to the conclusion, that the funds, which the public supplied to this Institution, for the maintenance of a school, and for the training of schoolmasters, should be simply, and without admixture with any other concern, appropriated to those purposes; that they should not only be held distinct, and free from complication with any man's individual concerns or individual expense, but that no man individually should have power to incur a single farthing of charge upon the public fund. It was not the experience of their own particular inconveniences alone which led the committee to this general opinion; but their conviction, that, without a system of management moulded upon this principle, inconveniences could never be avoided.

This principle, indeed, lies so necessarily at the root of all good management, that it may naturally enough be asked, how came this important Institution ever to be conducted on a different plan? To account for this, it is necessary to recollect in what circumstances the Institution originated, and through what stages it has passed; from which it will be visible, that at no earlier period was the introduction of a more perfect system practicable; and that the very first occasion has been embraced, at which the object could with perfect propriety be accomplished. The school in the Borough Road, which Mr. Lancaster, then a very young man, opened for teaching the children of the poor in that neighbourhood for pay, as a means

of livelihood, gave, as the public are well informed, the commencement to the proceedings which it is now the object and the endeavour of the Institution to carry on and extend.

By employing the children themselves, as instruments in the instruction of one another, and contriving expedients by which this instrumentality was rendered more efficient than it had hitherto been, as well as by other economical devices, Mr. Lancaster rendered it evident that schooling for the poor might be provided at a small expence. Happily for the public, Mr. Lancaster was not of a character to let his merits remain unknown. The proceedings in the school in the Borough Road were displayed to the public; and the public mind was prepared to receive the deepest impression from the contemplation of such an object. Very happily, too, a class of persons whose opinions were sure to attract attention, were incited to attack in print these plans for the instruction of the poor, in the name of the church, and to declare that if the children of the poor were allowed to be instructed by a sectary, the church was in danger. This increased the public curiosity; the public curiosity increased the public knowledge; the public knowledge multiplied instead of diminishing the friends of the work; and the king himself gave to it his countenance and support.

Notwithstanding the assistance, however, which Mr. Lancaster had thus received, he had fallen into debt, and was on the point of sinking under his embarrassments, when the knowledge of his transactions and of his difficulties was imparted to Mr. Joseph Fox. With a public spirit which has few examples, that excellent man, actuated by a sense of duty to preserve the operation of a most important benefit to society,

pledged a considerable portion of what he possessed to relieve a person whom he regarded as a great instrument of public good, and enable him without intermission to continue his efforts to that end. A small number of individuals afterwards stepped in to share with him the burthen, and took upon themselves a part in managing the establishment. This was the second of the stages at which the proceedings arrived, when the school was still the property of Mr. Lancaster, and a private concern; at which time he was engaged to the individuals who had relieved him, to exert himself for that public object which had procured him their friendship, and for the means of reimbursing to them the advances which they had made in his behalf.

After some efforts of a less public nature, and after some journeys performed by Mr. Lancaster for the purpose of exciting, by means of lectures, the spirit of the people throughout the country, and improving their knowledge of the means of imparting instruction to the most numerous class of the community, it was resolved by the individuals who had most closely connected themselves with the business of this important concern, to endeavour to place it upon a more public foundation than it had as yet obtained. Persons of the highest rank and influence were easily induced to co-operate in the generous undertaking, and to lend their names and their exertions, as well as their purses, for carrying it on. A committee was also formed of a number of men of influence and talent; and the public contributions were solicited by public meetings upon a more extended scale. This was the third of the stages at which the proceedings in behalf of this system of

schooling arrived. It was now partly a public concern, but it was partly also a private one. The school was still the school of Mr. Lancaster, though it was Mr. Lancaster's school supported by public contributions. It was not easy, therefore, if Mr. Lancaster insisted upon it, to prevent his private influence from interfering greatly with the public influence, or Mr. Lancaster's personal expenses from blending themselves with the public expenses of the institution. This, it is evident, was a state of confusion under which no public concern could be well and economically managed.

In this situation Mr. Lancaster suddenly engaged in the business of a boarding-school, for his own benefit, at Tooting. It became now more than ever necessary to make a determined stand for preventing the funds of the Institution from becoming in any manner pledged for the private expenses of Mr. Lancaster, or being converted to the support of his projects. To prepare the way for this, one measure was absolutely necessary, which was to accomplish a bargain with Mr. Lancaster for the transfer of his property in the premises in the Borough Road to the institution. After some negotiation this was effected on terms of his own proposing, which were, that the gentlemen who had taken upon themselves his early debts, and who stood in advance for him to the amount of upwards of £5,000, should exonerate him from all obligation to them, and should become invested in the premises in the Borough road in lieu of payment. To this proposal the gentlemen in question acceded, and agreed to hold the premises in trust for the public concern, and to look to the public for payment of the

sums which they had willingly embarked in a service by which the public was so greatly to profit.

Now for the first time was it possible to render the institution entirely public, and to place it, clear of all deduction or reservation, upon a public foundation. A plan for that purpose began to be matured. In the mean time the difficulties with Mr. Lancaster increased; difficulties of which it is by no means easy to speak, and to lay before the public that information which the public has a right to require; that information which the public demands, and which is plainly necessary for constituting that ground of confidence on which the continuance of its support depends. We are however, the less under any obligation of reserve that Mr. Lancaster himself has published his hostility to the committee, and in print denounced them his enemies and persecutors. As far too as discussion in a public meeting, and the publication of its proceedings in the newspapers, remove all delicacy on the subject of the opposition which Mr. Lancaster has made to those who had combined in using their utmost endeavours for carrying on the business of education on the most extensive and liberal scale, there can be no reason for withholding any facts which it is useful the public should know. Besides it is our clear and decided opinion, that not on this occasion only, but on almost all occasions that can be named, the publication of the truth is salutary to all parties, and most of all to the party that is most in the wrong. It makes the lesson of experience to strike the deeper. It renders the sense of the error more keen and pungent; the association between the idea of the fault and the idea of its natural punishment, or its painful consequences, more strong and operative; it gives more security, in a word, for the re-

claiming of the offender; for obtaining in future, beneficent conduct, where before was experienced the reverse. With regard even to the parties on whom, on such occasions, the truth may appear the hardest to lean, they cannot exhibit any feeling more calculated to excite well grounded hopes of future worth and utility, than a patient and decent approbation of what is useful to be told. The person who thoroughly hates his offence, and is resolved to redeem whatever estimation he may have lost, by new degrees of virtue and of merit in future, feels that he loses by the fullest disclosure of his actions nothing which he would wish to retain. The man who is inordinately solicitous that as much as possible of his transgressions should be concealed, gives a strong proof that he is not fully inclined to redeem his past by his future behaviour; that he wished to have a good character upon *cheap* terms, or rather upon *dishonest terms*; that he wishes to pass upon the public for better than he is, at least with regard to the past; and if he wishes to do so with regard to the past, it is a strong presumption that he will wish to do so with regard to the future. We say this, however, rather as general doctrine, of high importance and utility, applicable indeed to the present, as on almost all analogous occasions, but not peculiarly necessary to justify any thing which here we shall find it requisite to produce. All which we shall here find it requisite to produce has been produced to the public already. What we have now to state is only as much as is necessary to complete that record of the transactions of this important association, which we deem it of moment that the public should possess; and to afford to the public that sort of satisfactory explanation of every thing about it, which the public has a right to expect.

It is necessary to state that those gentlemen who had stood forward to the public as trustees, pledged for the best application of the funds which the public supplied, had been in the habit of experiencing considerable difficulty with Mr. Lancaster, in the details of management, particularly with regard to the material consideration of expense. They deemed it their duty to the contributors, and still more to the great work which the state of instruction among the people so urgently required to be carried on, and which only could be carried on by the most economical management, to make a vigorous stand against every instance of unnecessary expense. It would be tedious, and does not appear to be extremely necessary, to describe how long and how often the parties pulled in opposite directions upon this ground, and how much care was taken to soften the differences, both in tenderness to Mr. Lancaster, and to prevent the advantage which might be taken from any appearance of discord in the management to prejudice the work in the eyes of the public.

At last, after Mr. Lancaster had in a great measure withdrawn his personal attendance from the institution in the Borough Road, after he was engaged in the business of his school at Tooting, and the premises in the Borough Road were vested in Trustees for the benefit of the public, a refusal on the part of these trustees to comply with a pecuniary demand of Mr. Lancaster for his own benefit, which had already been settled according to his own desire, produced on his part an explosion which rendered a new state of connexion and a new plan of co-operation (if connexion and co-operation were any longer advisable) absolutely necessary. It

is only requisite here to repeat what Mr. Lancaster has already printed and published. It is only necessary to say that no expression of a hostile mind was on his part withheld. He declared the trustees and those who acted with them to be his enemies and persecutors, and accused them of being actuated by a design to intercept the public favour and applause which were due to him, and to attach it to themselves.

We purposely abstain from all comment upon these facts; and proceed to relate, that the state of the concern came now by necessity under the review of the principal persons by whom the interest of the Institution had been chiefly patronized, as a step preliminary to that of submitting the proposed arrangements to the supporters of the Institution at large. The reciprocal complaints of the trustees and of Mr. Lancaster were fully examined, and maturely considered by those great persons, who bestowed upon the subject a degree of labour and attention which cannot be too highly praised. The circumstances were repeatedly discussed in conjunction with meetings of the Finance committee, and the matters in dispute were expressly referred to friends of Mr. Lancaster, chosen by himself. The conclusion to which all, without one exception, arrived, and the friends of Mr. Lancaster, chosen by himself, as strongly and decidedly as any of the rest, was, not only that upon the whole Mr. Lancaster was in the wrong, and the trustees in the right, but that in every point on which opposition had arisen, their conduct deserved approbation, and his the contrary; that if in any instance they had erred, it was in yielding up too much to Mr. Lancaster, and manifesting too much lenity to what they could not approve.

In the mean time, the private con-

cerns of Mr. Lancaster came to a crisis, and his name appeared in the *Gazette* as a bankrupt. By the friends of that system of schooling with which his name was connected, that system which not only afforded the blessings of education to those who were least able to pay for it, upon the cheapest terms, but opened the school-doors to all; the sort of scandal which this event was calculated to bring upon the system, and the advantage which its enemies might possibly make of such a handle, to prejudice the public against it, was deeply deplored. To them it appeared, that no time was to be lost to secure the public cause, as far as possible, from that injury which it was liable to sustain by the imprudence, or even the misfortunes, of those whose names might be strongly connected with it in the public mind.

The scheme, therefore, which had for some time been under consideration, and which had been carefully framed and examined by those persons who had enjoyed the greatest experience in conducting affairs of a similar nature, was anxiously reviewed and discussed; and after all possible pains had been used in maturing it, and it had received the sanction of the committee, a public meeting of subscribers was called, for the purpose of submitting it to their decision.

Training the children of the most numerous class upon the most economical terms, and opening the doors of the schools to all religious denominations, upon the only practical principle, of abstaining from the inculcation of any particular set of religious opinions, and merely giving to the children the Bible to read, being assumed as the grand objects which by the new arrangements were to be, if possible, more effectually pursued; and the seminary

for training schoolmasters, to carry the methods of the institution into effect, as fast as schools are erected in the country, being the principal object of attention, and the principal source of difficulty and expense; the plan by which it was proposed that the business should in future be conducted, was as follows:

That the whole body of contributors should form themselves into an association, and take the management of this great and interesting business into their own hands; every person subscribing annually one guinea, and upwards, being a member; every person subscribing ten guineas a member for life; every person subscribing fifty guineas entitled to assist and vote at all meetings of the committee.

That this association should hold two general meetings in the year, of which one principal object should be to elect the different office-bearers and managers by whom the business of the Institution must be daily and regularly carried on; and that, for this purpose, a Patron, Vice-Patrons, a President, Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and Secretary, and a Committee of twenty-four, should be chosen annually: that these general meetings should also receive annually a Report of the proceedings of the Institution, and accounts of the receipts and disbursements: upon all which a Report should be prepared for publication.

That as the principal charge of administration must devolve upon the Committee, they, for the more convenient distribution of business, should, at their first meeting in every year, elect five members as a Committee of Finance, whose duty it should be to superintend more immediately the pecuniary concerns of the Institution, to consider of the best means for augmenting the funds,

nominate agents throughout the empire, and regulate the accounts; elect also twelve members as visitors, to inspect the house, the young persons under instruction, and tradesmen's bills, reporting from time to time to the Committee; elect, moreover, two members as Auditors of Accounts; and appoint sub-committees when necessary.

To matters of more subordinate detail, we account it unnecessary to descend. They resemble the regulations, modified by the nature of the business, which other societies have found expedient for conducting their affairs.

There is only one other circumstance, of which any particular mention is necessary. Though Mr. Lancaster had hitherto expressed the most violent aversion to the whole project, and his resolution not to act with the parties who had been chiefly instrumental in upholding the Institution, it was by the persons upon whom the preliminary business of arrangement devolved, generally deemed a desirable object, with regard to the public, that as little of schism as possible should appear in the proceedings of the society; that an office should be created, by which Mr. Lancaster, if he chose, might still unite himself with the Institution, and that no pains should be spared to bring his mind to a more reasonable mode of thinking.

For this purpose, it was agreed, that there should be an office of Teaching Superintendent, whose duty it should be, in conjunction with the Schoolmaster, to take a leading part in the instruction of the young persons who should be admitted into the seminary for masters, and to inspect the various schools in the metropolis which are conducted upon the all-embracing plan, with some other functions of minor importance: and Mr. Lancaster was

invited to accept of this office, with a liberal salary, or to signify his rejection of it, before the general meeting of subscribers. No answer, though it had been stated to him that his silence must be held tantamount to a refusal, was received, and the subscribers met. It is only necessary to give a short statement of the proceedings of that assembly, which have already been published in the newspapers, and we shall then we trust have communicated to our readers all that is necessary to give them an adequate conception of the present state of the Institution.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent was in the chair. The Duke of Sussex, the Duke of Bedford, and the Earl of Darley, and other persons of distinction being present, with a respectable assemblage of subscribers, a Report from the Committee was read, briefly stating the nature of the business on account of which the present meeting was called, and explaining the grounds upon which the code of regulations about to be submitted to their consideration, was both deemed necessary, and conceived to be adapted to the accomplishment of the ends that were in view. When the code was read, Mr. Lancaster rose and objected to the proposed proceedings, chiefly on the score of time, of which, he said, that enough had not been afforded to make up his mind. Without repeating the different observations which were made upon his remarks, it is sufficient to state, that it appeared to be the decided and unanimous opinion of the assembly, that there was no weight in his objections. The different articles of the code were then separately proposed to the meeting, to receive their provisional approbation, and to stand for final confirmation at the next general meeting. They were all unanimously adopted. Of the farther

proceedings of this assembly, one only it will be necessary to relate. Among other gentlemen who offered to the assembly more or less of explanation on the existing state of the Institution, Mr. Whitbread was one, to whom it occurred, that one effort more might still be tried to subdue the mind of Mr. Lancaster, and to prevent that appearance of discord which his separation from the Institution might produce. After urging upon Mr. Lancaster, in the strongest terms, the unreasonable nature of his pretensions, after telling him literally that an insatiable desire of power had led him to oppose the interests of the Institution; that for the exercise of power he was altogether unqualified, and for the prevention of mischief that it must be entirely kept out of his hands; he added, that a situation had however been expressly chalked out for him—that sort of situation in which alone he was qualified to be useful; that the Institution not only held even yet the door open to him, but were ready to intreat and to implore him to enter; and that, in the name of the society, he did accordingly both entreat and implore that he would accept the office which was held out to him. The consequence was, that Mr. Lancaster complied; and that the office of Superintendent, with the duties and on the terms above described, is now filled by him. He has a definite duty to perform, and a definite salary to receive. And the funds of the Institution are, as they ought to be, in the hands of those who contribute them; to be applied and managed, through the whole details of application and management, by themselves, under the administration of those whom, as their committees or delegates, they themselves may appoint. As this is the only plan calculated to give

full satisfaction to the public, and the best security that can be afforded against mismanagement, it is fondly hoped, that the new constitution may form a new era in the history of "Schools for all," give a new impulse to the system, remove obstructions, multiply aids, and accelerate the important progress.

Till the next general meeting, which it is proposed to hold in the month of May, it has been deemed advisable, that the old committee, associating with themselves such of the subscribers as were disposed to assist, should continue in office, and discharge the duties of administration. At that meeting, if the subscribers shall confirm the code which has received their preliminary sanction, they will proceed to take the business into their own hands, and elect their own administrators.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

AS you frequently admit into the pages of your Magazine, descriptions of particular parts of the country, with the remarks of those who communicate them, I hope you will appropriate a column or two to a short description of the beautiful demesne of Church-hill, the residence of James Verner, Esq.; which, in point of improvement, deserves to be held up as a pattern to every gentleman in the kingdom, who possesses the same kind of property.

Church-hill stands on a small rising ground near the Blackwater river, in the County of Armagh, almost wholly surrounded by an immense bog, and previous to coming into possession of its present proprietor, it had been but very little improved.

In passing frequently between the Counties of Armagh and Tyrone, when this gentleman commenced his plan of draining and planting